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(54) Title: LASER MARKING PROCESS

(57) Abstract: Thin, flexible plastic films, of the type used for the packaging of foodstuffs, may be printed using a laser marking technique by printing a layer or layers comprising a laser sensitive material and an ink so that heating of the laser sensitive material by absorption of laser radiation burns the ink selectively, so causing markings to appear. A further process for marking a flexible plastic material using a laser is disclosed, whereby to a surface of a substrate comprising said flexible plastic material a laser sensitive material which is or is associated with a material that generates gas on heating is applied, this is coated with a gas impermeable layer, then exposed to laser radiation such that raised markings appear on the exposed portions.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

on Application No

PCT/US 03/36222

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER				
IPC 7	B41M5/24	B41M5/26	B41M5/40	B41M3/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B41M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	US 6 066 437 A (KOESSLINGER ROBERT) 23 May 2000 (2000-05-23) cited in the application column 3, line 46 - column 5, line 45; figure 1	1-4,6-9
X	US 6 259 465 B1 (HEETDERKS JAMES P ET AL) 10 July 2001 (2001-07-10) column 2, line 40 - column 3, line 6 column 4, line 5 - line 61 column 6, line 5 - line 41	1-4,8,9
X	EP 0 526 396 A (FERCHIM ENG SA) 3 February 1993 (1993-02-03) page 2, line 31 - page 3, line 10 page 3, line 36 - page 4, line 12 page 5, line 52 - page 6, line 21	5

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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